May 2010

# The Trapline

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Wildlife Services



Cooperating with:

Nevada

Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Protection





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### Mission Statement

The Nevada Wildlife Services Program (WS) is a collaborative program involving the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Division of Resource Protection (State) and the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services Program (federal), whose mission is to protect agriculture, natural resources, property, and the human health and safety of the citizens of Nevada from the threat of injury, damage, or resource loss due to wildlife.

#### Introduction

During May, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated 12.3 million acres of land under agreement. Additionally, WS assisted 130 persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported \$8,480 in damage and WS Specialists verified another \$13,350 in damage to other agricultural resources. During May, coyotes accounted for \$8,475 in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and 225 coyotes were taken with a variety of management methods to resolve these and other ongoing complaints. WS routinely collects blood samples or oral swabs from species taken or handled during normal control activities for monitoring the presence of plague, avian influenza, and other diseases. In May, 29 samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of May, 2010.

## Resource Protection State Office

During May, 2010, the State Office trap loaning program checked out **32** cage traps. The species distribution for the traps loaned out were: raccoons **(16)**, skunks **(2)**, marmots **(2)**, Desert wood rat **(1)**, and squirrels **(11)**. Information regarding baits to use, trap placement tactics, handling of trapped animals and safety precautions to take when working with the wildlife species were provided for all equipment loaned.

#### **East District**







On April 30<sup>th</sup>, a sheep producer in southern Elko County contacted District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett, concerning the loss of two lambs valued at \$250. The sheep producer reported that he felt a lion may have been responsible for the damage. DS Bennett immediately contacted Mountain Lion Specialist (MLS) Jim Buhler and requested him to respond to the depredation. On May 1st, MLS Buhler moved his camp, mules and dogs to the location of the reported kills. MLS Buhler rode into the remote location on the north end of the Diamond Mountains and confirmed that a lion had indeed killed the two lambs. MLS Buhler trailed the offending lion for several miles and stopped the pursuit as darkness fell. The next morning found MLS Buhler back on the track. MLS Buhler and his well trained dogs followed the lion for several miles north and then the lion topped over the Diamond Mountains to the west. The wind was blowing more then 50 miles an hour and MLS Buhler's dogs lost the lion's scent. MLS Buhler continued to search for the lion for several more days with no luck. On May 5th, the lion returned and killed one adult ewe and four lambs valued at \$650. On May 6th, MLS Buhler followed the lion's trail for about four miles finally treeing the lion, again on the west side of the Diamond Mountain Range. The lion was a large male that weighed about 145 pounds. MLS Buhler estimated the tom's age at about eight years old. The lion was in excellent shape except for one eye that had an abnormal growth of tissue over it. The lion was skinned and turned into the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) Ely Office.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, The Elko plane, crewed by Pilot Ken Baer and Crew Member (CM) Wayne Rowley, flew for a sheep producer in southern Elko County. Four lambs, valued at \$440, had been killed by coyotes on several bands of sheep. With Wildlife Specialist (WS) Derril Fry acting as the ground crew, five coyotes were removed, including three in close proximity to the newborn lambs.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Ely plane, crewed by Instructor Pilot (IP) Tim Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor, flew on a sheep ranch in northern White Pine County. The producer had reported to WS Matt Spires that one adult ewe and four lambs valued at \$590 had been recently killed by coyotes. With DS Bennett acting as the ground crew, one coyote was removed. A den site was also located, which was later removed by WS Spires.

During the Week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Assistant District Supervisor (ADS) Sam Sanders traveled to Eureka County to help sheep producers. Last year, coyotes killed several ewes and lambs during the spring and summer months on the sheep ranges near Eureka, Nevada. In an effort to reduce losses this year, ADS Sanders placed ground equipment and has removed several coyotes from the area. ADS Sanders will continue to work the area and monitor any losses to coyotes.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane, crewed by IP Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor flew on a sheep ranch in north eastern White Pine County. The sheep producer reported that coyotes had killed five lambs valued at \$625. With the assistance of WS Virgil Fullerton as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove three coyotes. Two of the coyotes, a large male and a younger female were taken near the sheep. WS Fullerton later discovered that he had captured a large female in one of his traps near the same location, bringing the damage to an end. The sheep producer was very pleased with the results.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane, crewed by IP Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor, flew on a sheep ranch in western White Pine County. The sheep producer has had several lambs killed by coyotes this spring. Both the Elko and the Ely planes have been providing support in an effort to help minimize the losses. With the assistance of WS Fry as the ground crew, one adult coyote was observed and removed. The coyote was a large male and was spotted leaving a freshly killed lamb. WS Fry hiked into the location and verified that the covote had lamb in its stomach. The sheep producer has been very pleased with the efforts of both planes and WS Fry's work.

On May 8th, the Elko plane, crewed by Pilot Baer and CM Gilbert Temoke, flew on a lambing range that was reporting lamb losses to coyotes in Elko County. In an effort to help WS George Hansen and the sheep producer, State Director (SD) Mark Jensen provided ground support for the aerial operation. The plane removed three adult covotes near the band of sheep experiencing the problems. The Elko plane will continue to help livestock producers in the East District. A big "Thank You" goes out to both SD Jensen and the Elko plane for working on the weekends. Both the Elko and the Ely planes have worked many weekends this spring in an effort to help reduce losses and accomplish all of the aerial operations in place throughout eastern Nevada. The weekend flying could not have been possible without several Wildlife Specialists also willing to work on Saturdays and Sundays. Many cooperators have commented on how much they appreciate the extra effort.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane, crewed by IP Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor, flew on a sheep ranch near Ely, Nevada. The sheep producer reported the loss of two lambs valued at \$250. With the help of DS Bennett as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove four adult covotes, including a pair that had eluded capture for the past three years. The sheep producer was very happy with the results.

During the week of May 11th, a biologist from NDOW reported to ADS Sanders that sage grouse nests were being raided by ravens in Lander County. The NDOW Biologist requested assistance from Wildlife Services to help protect the Sage Grouse nests in that area. Since no prior raven work had been undertaken in Lander County, contact was made with NDOW in Reno to inform them and discuss the potential of Wildlife Services assisting NDOW with the conflict. After it was agreed that the work could be completed under NDOW project



21a (raven damage management), ADS Sanders joined the NDOW Biologist and put out 200 DRC-1339 treated chicken eggs to specifically remove ravens that depredate sage grouse nests. Approximately 40 ravens were removed from two sage grouse nesting areas. ADS Sanders verified that two sage grouse nests were raided by ravens, and the NDOW Biologist reported another sage grouse nest that was also raided by ravens. From his time spent in the field tracking collared sage

grouse, the NDOW Biologist knew where two raven nests were located, which were also removed. Two additional raven nests were located while dispersing the chicken eggs and were also promptly removed. All four raven nests were located within the sage grouse nesting area. Collaboration between NDOW and WS is an excellent way to increase effectiveness of protection efforts. ADS Sanders will continue to work with the NDOW Biologist for initiation of protection efforts for the Sage Grouse nests.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, WS Scott Little received a call concerning the loss of six lambs valued at \$750 in western White Pine County. WS Little traveled to the location and confirmed that covotes were responsible for the damage. WS Little used calling with the aid of his well trained decoy dogs to remove two coyotes from the area. The Ely plane, crewed by IP Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor, also responded to the location at the request of WS Little. One coyote was removed by the plane. No further losses have been reported and WS Little continues to monitor the area for problems. WS Little's coopera-



tors are extremely pleased with his efforts and have commented on numerous occasion that the only reason they can stay in the sheep business is due to the hard work and dedication provided by WS Little, the plane and the Wildlife Services Program.

On May 18th, MLS Buhler was checking with sheep herders on the north end of the Diamond Mountains. One sheep herder reported that four lambs valued at \$500 had been killed by an unknown predator. MLS Buhler traveled to the location and confirmed that a lion had killed the lambs. It is very common for MLS Buhler to look at depredation issues and then contact the local Wildlife Specialist if coyotes or other predators are responsible. MLS Buhler and WS Fry trailed the offending lion for two days. The lion went over the top of the Diamond Mountains into a very rugged and remote canyon on the west side of the mountain range. MLS Buhler dispatched the lion with one well placed shot. The lion was a two year old male that weighed about 95 pounds. The lion was in excellent condition. MLS Buhler also discovered one adult mule deer doe that the lion had killed recently. Often times, livestock protection efforts benefit Nevada's wildlife and the Nevada wildlife protection projects benefit livestock. WS Fry turned the lion hide into the Elko NDOW Office. No further losses have been reported and the sheep producer was very pleased with the assistance provided by MLS Buhler and WS Fry.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane, crewed by IP Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor, flew on NDOW project 22 in hunt units 222 and 231. An unusual late season snow storm dropped about three to four inches of fresh snow making coyote detection conditions very good for the aircraft. With the help of WS David (Billy) Taylor acting as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove five adult coyotes. NDOW Project 22 is designed to include aerial operations on winter and fawning grounds for the protection of mule deer and other big game species.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane, crewed by IP Keogh and CM Jerred Taylor, flew spring and summer sheep ranges in Eureka County. ADS Sanders provided ground support for the aerial operation. The aerial crew removed 11 coyotes and located a den. After landing, IP Keogh, CM Jerred Taylor, and ADS Sanders walked to the den and removed it. As there is no longer a Wildlife Specialist in Eureka County, having an experienced pilot who knows historic coyote den locations and problem areas is very helpful in reducing livestock losses in the area. Several cooperators in the area were very pleased, as their losses to coyotes will be less this year.

On May 25th, and May 26th, WS Billy Taylor and DS Bennett traveled to Elko County to protect sage grouse leks and nesting areas from ravens. During the two day operation, DS Bennett and WS Billy Taylor also provided ground support for the Elko plane, crewed by Pilot Baer and CM Rowley. On the 25th, WS Billy Taylor and DS Bennett assisted WS Fry in locating a pair of coyotes that had killed several lambs in southern Elko County. The coyotes were promptly removed by the plane bringing an end to the predation. On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>, the plane flew on the burns, north of Wells. Two coyotes were removed but wind and clouds forced an early end to the operation. During the two days, nine lek complexes were pro-



tected with DRC-1339 treated eggs. These same leks have been treated several times this season in an effort to help protect nests. Of interest, one raven was observed near Jackpot raiding a wild mallard nest, despite the adult ducks effort to save the nest. Raven numbers are much lower at all the nesting and lek areas than when the project began in early April. Several raven counts were conducted by Wildlife Services in an effort to document how effective the projects are. Studies show a direct link between raven densities and sage grouse nest survival. Many times, Wildlife Services will place treated eggs out in fake nests and return a few hours later to find all the eggs consumed by ravens. No doubt, sage grouse nests in the areas also meet the same fate as the fake nests that are placed out by Wildlife Services.

During the month of May, WS Spires was busy protecting newborn lambs in northern White Pine County; 16 lambs valued at \$2,000, were verified as killed by coyotes in three separate bands. WS Spires used calling, trapping and snaring to remove 12 adult coyotes and two dens to help bring the damage under control. The sheep producer is very happy with all the work provided by WS Spires.

During the month of May, the Elko plane, crewed by Pilot Baer and CM Rowley, were flying domestic sheep to help reduce losses from coyotes. Removing coyotes through aerial operations in the spring and summer is more specific as coyotes are more dispersed and denned. Often in the spring it is the paired coyotes that kill livestock. By removing these coyotes, damage is greatly reduced. With ground support from WS Fry, the Elko plane has removed more than twenty coyotes around one sheep producer in southern Elko County. With ground support from WS Temoke, the Elko plane removed ten coyotes from several other sheep producers in northern Elko County. The coyotes were all removed near bands of sheep that were experiencing losses to coyotes; several of the coyotes removed were actually feeding on predated sheep. The sheep producers appreciate the service provided by the Elko aircrew and ground support.

During May, WS Temoke was busy removing coyotes near several bands of lambing sheep north of

Elko, Nevada. WS Temoke removed more than ten coyotes, utilizing traps and trail snares keeping losses very low. WS Temoke also acted as a crew member for the Elko plane on several occasions. WS Temoke's ranchers are very happy with the work he is providing.

During May, WS Matt Jager was very busy protecting sheep in southern White Pine County. For the first time in many years, no lambs were reportedly lost to predators in his area. This is a testament to the hard work WS Jager has invested. WS Jager also removed three dens from his summer range. WS Jager took advantage of the late snow storms to track the adult coyotes back to their dens using the fresh snow as an aid. WS Jager walked many miles following the adults as they traveled through their territory and then returned to the den. WS Jager followed one pair of coyotes for about five miles; only to make a large circle and locate the den near the location he initially found the tracks. WS Jager's cooperators are very pleased with his excellent work ethic.

#### **West District**

On Saturday May 1st, Pilot Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay flew several sheep bands in Humboldt County that had experienced lamb losses during the past week. During the flight, the aerial crew flew some mountainous country, resulting in the removal of three coyotes. The coyotes were located by WS John Peter on the ground and he directed the plane to the covote's location. Flying in these mountainous locations require precision flying, gunning and locating to remove the offending coyotes. No further livestock losses have been reported, since the removal of the coyotes.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, two separate sheep producers from Washoe County reported that three lambs (valued at \$330) had been killed by



coyotes. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Pilot Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted aerial operations around six sheep bands. This area was along the California border, so the Lassen County California Trapper assisted WS Doug Koepke with ground crew efforts. During the flight, a total of seven coyotes were removed. All coyotes were removed within 1/4 mile of the lamb bands. Even with the removal of coyotes around the sheep, more coyotes will eventually move into the areas of the vulnerable lamb bands. On an aside, as June passes, the coyotes often focus more on newborn antelope as prey than young lambs. The aerial crew often observes coyotes chasing, killing and carrying off newborn antelope and mule deer. Protection efforts will be ongoing around these lamb bands.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, a sheep herder in Humboldt County checked the sheep at daylight and discovered a lion feeding on a freshly killed lamb. The herder shot the two year old female lion on the spot. The herder also found one ewe and four additional lambs (valued at \$625) killed by the lion nearby. WS John Peter was mule back in the area, so he took the offending female lion to the NDOW office for processing. Protection efforts will be ongoing for these lamb bands.

During the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru May 7<sup>th</sup>, MLS Tom Kilby worked around several lamb bands in Washoe County. A sheep producer reported that eight lambs and two ewes (valued at \$1,200) had been killed by lions. During the week, MLS Kilby removed one female lion and one large male lion. No further livestock losses have been reported, since the removal of the lions.

On May 6th thru May 7th, DS Jack Spencer Jr. conducted a routine field inspection with WS George Flournoy on the NDOW Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA). WS Flournoy is protecting upland game birds and waterfowl from predation around core nesting areas. During the two day in-



spection, several coyotes, raccoons and ravens were removed. WS Flournoy will continue to remove offending predatory wildlife from nesting areas.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, Pilot Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted an early morning flight around two lamb bands in Humboldt County. During the flight, two covotes were removed from within the lamb bands. The aerial crew also located one coyote den and reported the location to WS John Peter for removal. Protection efforts will continue.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, MLS Kilby responded to a livestock complaint in Douglas County. MLS Kilby confirmed that a large black bear had killed one ewe (valued at \$110). MLS Kilby released hounds near the kill site and a large black bear was removed nearby. The head, hide and gall bladder were turned over to NDOW by Staff Biologist (SB) Jack Sengl and WS Luke Barto, as per policy. This year, above average precipitation is yielding good feed for black bears: however, some black bears, especially big boars, will continually kill livestock. No further livestock losses have been reported.



During the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru May 7<sup>th</sup>, WS Koepke was busy trapping around six lamb bands in Washoe County. During the week, WS Koepke removed six coyotes by utilizing trail snares and leghold traps. WS Koepke will continue to protect sheep in this area.

During the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru May 7<sup>th</sup>, WS Ben Miller hiked into remote mule deer fawning areas on the Washoe County Mule Deer Project (hunt unit 014). During the week, WS Miller removed three coyotes with his firearm and decoy dog. WS Miller also removed one coyote den. Older coyotes are very territorial and research indicates that older covotes are usually the culprits most effective at consuming big game fawns. The older coyotes often respond to the use of decoy dogs the most. WS Miller will continue to protect mule deer, antelope and bighorn sheep in the protection area.

During the month of May, WS Peter was busy checking equipment while mule back around several sheep bands in Humboldt County. During the month, WS Peter removed 13 coyotes with leghold traps, snares and decoy dogs. WS Peter also removed six coyote dens. Many of the dens and coyotes were around the lamb bands. WS Peter will continue to protect livestock in Humboldt County.

On May 12th, Pilot Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several sheep bands in Lander County. These lamb bands experience occasional losses throughout the lambing period, so continual coyote removal is necessary. During the flight, two covotes were removed and one den was located and reported to WS George Hansen for removal. Protection efforts will be ongoing.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, a medium sized black bear was spotted by a sheep herder in northern Washoe County (35 miles northwest of Gerlach). The bear sighting was reported to NDOW as they are the agency responsible for managing black bears in the State.



On May 13th, WS Miller put on a backpack and headed into some remote country to check trail snares that were set to protect mule deer and bighorn sheep populations from coyotes and lions. Along the way, WS Miller found where a large male lion was walking along a deer trail. WS Miller tracked the lion and found where it was caught in his trail snare. The lion was a large 140 pound male that was about six years old. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> lion removed from this project during the past several years. As lions are exclusively carnivorous, approximately 52 large big game animals were saved from being digested. Even with ideal habitat conditions for mule deer, lions will continue to consume mule deer. WS Miller will continue to directly protect mule deer; and, research shows that bighorn sheep and antelope can also benefit from the removal of large predators.

On May 19th, Pilot Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several sheep bands in Lander County. Two coyotes were removed during the early morning flight. WS George Hansen provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Pilot Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several sheep bands in Washoe County. The morning flight was cut short because of high winds and unstable weather, however, one coyote was removed while running out of a lamb band. A future flight will return to this area when the weather improves.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, DS Spencer, SB Sengl and WS Barto had a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and staff from a Washoe County airport to provide input on the Truckee River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. Lands near the Truckee River are going to be converted to native habitat restoration and recreation development. USDA/Wildlife Services personnel provide

guidance and suggestions for land use changes to ensure that the future developments of the project won't attract additional wildlife species that could threaten aviation safety. DS Spencer and SB Sengl are Certified Airport Biologists trained to assist airports with potential wildlife issues.

During the week of May 24<sup>th</sup> thru May 28<sup>th</sup>, WS Eric Hansen was busy protecting several lamb bands in Lyon County. WS Eric Hansen has equipment placed around lamb bands to capture coyotes before they kill sheep. During the week, WS Eric Hansen removed seven coyotes by utilizing trail snares and leghold traps. WS Eric Hansen will continue to protect these lamb bands until they move them to their summer ranges in California.

During the past month, WS Flournoy was busy placing equipment around the Mason Valley WMA in Lyon County. WS Flournoy is concentrating predation damage management work efforts around nesting upland game and waterfowl areas. This project was initiated due to a history of poor upland game bird and waterfowl species recruitment in this area. NDOW is also releasing several hundred juvenile pheasants on the WMA which would be very susceptible to predation, if not for the natural resource protection by WS Flournoy. During the pro-



ject, WS Flournoy removed 30 coyotes, 16 raccoons, two foxes, two skunks, three bobcats and 42 ravens within close proximity to nesting areas. With this density of documented predators around nesting areas, it would be hard for juvenile/adult birds to survive. Hopefully with the removal of predatory wildlife around the nesting areas, there will be better recruitment for the birds.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, WS Koepke requested assistance from the aerial crew around several lamb bands in Washoe County. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Pilot Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted an aerial flight around livestock loss sites, resulting in the removal of four coyotes. One of the coyotes removed by the aerial crew was harassing an antelope near the sheep. WS Koepke provided ground support during aerial operations. WS Koepke will continue to monitor these lamb bands.

During the week of May 25<sup>th</sup> thru May 28<sup>th</sup>, WS Miller spent the week walking around mule deer fawning areas on the Washoe County Mule Deer Project. During the week, WS Miller removed seven coyotes with the use of decoy dogs and firearms. WS Miller also removed two coyote dens. Covotes that den near mule deer fawning areas are the main culprits that have an adverse effect on juvenile mule deer. WS Miller will continue to protect mule deer in the protection area.

Throughout the month of May, WS Barto continued to provide Washoe and Carson City Counties with technical and direct assistance with urban wildlife conflicts. Highlights include: removing a large male bobcat that was killing sheep in a residential area; and five coyotes that became an issue in a heavily populated area. WS Barto also protected aviation safety by removing 29 mallard ducks and eight Canada geese from a large Washoe County airport. WS Barto will continue to address human health and aviation safety concerns in Washoe and Carson Counties.

**Developing Methods** Nothing to Report.

Valuing and Investing in People On May 14th, WS Miller was the recipient of the Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Conservation Award. This honor is awarded annually to recipients who have demonstrated significant results towards conservation, management or enhancement of wildlife. WS Miller was presented a wall plague at the NDOW office during the Wildlife Commission meeting held in Reno. The award reminds WS Miller of the importance of his contributions to protect mule deer on the mountain. WS Miller takes his wildlife protection efforts seriously and knows that Sportsman's dollars are making a positive difference for the wildlife that he protects on a daily basis.

Our congratulations go out to WS Miller for all his hard work and dedication.

On May 17th, Budget Analyst Carol Fish awarded Office Automation Clerk (OAC) Cassie Parks two Certificates of Merit: In recognition for outstanding performance and dedicated effort to the Nevada Wildlife Services Program in implementation of Nevada's Identification Badge on-site capabilities; and one for effectively working with program staff and the public to improve and enhance the Nevada Wildlife Services Program. Congratulations OAC Parks for your well deserved awards!



Information and Communication

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, SD Jensen and SB Sengl provided a Power point presentation regarding wildlife threats to aviation safety for the Nevada Airports Association Meeting in Reno.

During the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>, Wildlife Disease Biologist (WDB) Bowers traveled to Athens, Georgia for the 2010 wildlife seminar for emergency animal disease preparedness. The seminar included

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informative presentations as well as a work session involving mock scenarios in which participants get the chance to experience the procedures involved in a disease outbreak.

During May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, WS Staff attended the NDOW Commission Meeting in Reno.

#### Emerging Trends/Issues

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, WDB Bowers responded to reports of sick raccoons in the down town area. Reports indicated raccoons were emaciated, week, confused, and having difficulty breathing. In both cases WDB Bowers was unable to locate the reported individuals; it is likely that the raccoons come out of the many local storm drains for resources and then returned. These reports are following a situation that occurred in March involving sick raccoons that were picked up by DS Spencer and taken to the Nevada animal disease lab. In that instance, canine distemper was suspected, but results were inconclusive. WDB Bowers has been in communication with NDOW, and Nevada Department of Agriculture personnel, in order to collect these sick raccoons to determine what's causing this condition. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, WS Barto responded to a routine call involving a raccoon in the down town area. WS Barto's quick response resulted in capture of the raccoon. While inspecting the raccoon, WS Barto noticed that although its behavior and overall appearance were normal, it appeared to have conjunctiva in its eyes. WDB Bowers relayed this information to NDOW's Veterinarian and after conferring, the raccoon was submitted to the Nevada animal disease lab for testing. WDB Bowers and WS Barto will continue to monitor this situation.

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR) Nothing to Report.

#### Future Meetings and Events

June 15<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>, annual required Wildlife Disease Training in Fort Collins, CO. WDB Bowers to attend.

June 21<sup>st</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, required attendance of the Birdstrike USA/Canada Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. Certified Airport Biologists DS Spencer, SB Sengl and WDB Bowers to attend.

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